



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

As you know, EPA has proposed to retain the current primary (health-based) fine particle, or PM_{2.5}, standards, measured annually and daily. For larger particles, EPA is proposing to retain the coarse, or PM₁₀, standards. Finally, EPA is proposing to retain the current secondary (welfare-based) standards for both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ standards (set equal to the primary standards, except that the level of the secondary annual PM_{2.5} standard is 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter).

In your letter, you express concern over the impact of particles on public health, particularly on those populations that may be disproportionately affected by PM air pollution. You request that EPA reconsider its proposal to retain the current primary and secondary PM standards and to strengthen the PM NAAQS.

I appreciate your concerns and can assure you that your views and comments will be taken into consideration as we develop a final rule. Your comments and recommendations have been added to the docket for this rulemaking (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072) and will be considered as EPA moves forward in its decision-making process. EPA intends to issue a final rule on the PM NAAQS in December 2020.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or at (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

As you know, EPA has proposed to retain the current primary (health-based) fine particle, or PM standards, measured annually and daily. For larger particles, EPA is proposing to retain the coarse, or PM₁₀, standards. Finally, EPA is proposing to retain the current secondary (welfare-based) standards for both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ standards (set equal to the primary standards, except that the level of the secondary annual PM_{2.5} standard is 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter).

In your letter, you express concern over the impact of particles on public health, particularly on those populations that may be disproportionately affected by PM air pollution. You request that EPA reconsider its proposal to retain the current primary and secondary PM standards and to strengthen the PM NAAQS.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or at (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

As you know, EPA has proposed to retain the current primary (health-based) fine particle, or PM_{2.5}, standards, measured annually and daily. For larger particles, EPA is proposing to retain the coarse, or PM₁₀, standards. Finally, EPA is proposing to retain the current secondary (welfare-based) standards for both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ standards (set equal to the primary standards, except that the level of the secondary annual PM_{2.5} standard is 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter).

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or at (202) 564-1142.

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

As you know, EPA has proposed to retain the current primary (health-based) fine particle, or PM_{2.5}, standards, measured annually and daily. For larger particles, EPA is proposing to retain the coarse, or PM₁₀, standards. Finally, EPA is proposing to retain the current secondary (welfare-based) standards for both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ standards (set equal to the primary standards, except that the level of the secondary annual PM_{2.5} standard is 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter).

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Karen Thundiyil in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at thundiyil.karen@epa.gov or at (202) 564-1142.

Sincerely,

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Sincerely,

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Edward Markey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Jeffrey Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 7, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

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Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator